

About me, my work and my publications plus acknowledgements

I provide the brief personal autobiography below because I believe it is important to explicitly acknowledge possible sources of bias - even if every creation ought to be ideally viewed on its merits in terms of itself. I also provide it partly to explain my patchy publication record.

About Me:

- I am currently (2005) a Visiting Fellow at University of New South Wales after 10 years specialising in teaching - Economics of E-Commerce, Economics of Information and Technology, Business Economics, Knowledge Economy, Labour Economics, Microeconomics II.
- I am currently on a non-paying sabbatical so that I can bring my papers together into a coherent whole.
- I have a Ph.D. from Princeton University and 1st Class Honours from Sydney University. My Dissertation at Princeton was the “The Interstate Variation in Workers’ Compensation Benefits: Empirical Tests of Neoclassical and Neo-Marxist Perspectives”. The thesis was not published because referees insisted that I should make changes which I refused to make. I believe the demand to make the changes were ideological rather than technical. (Both models performed well, and as well as each other, but the “combined” model ‘collapsed’ as a result of multicollinearity.
- I spent 10 years in banking, finance and consulting after returning to Sydney. Academic positions were not available in Sydney and I was committed to living in Sydney for personal family reasons.
- I spent 5 years as a parent-representative and Treasurer of the Physical Disability Council of NSW, during which time I began to integrate Economics and Disability by writing submissions to government on behalf of the Council and other disability organisations.
- I have 3 daughters, the oldest of whom has cerebral palsy affecting all limbs. She is intellectually particularly gifted and currently studies Social Science/Law. My other daughters are in High School.
- The most critical formative experiences of my identity have been to be the only son of Holocaust survivors, living in democratic Australia, a 3-month trip to India when I was 20, my communication with people with disability, my life at Princeton and living with my wife and children.

My Publications

- I have a poor academic publication record due to my being unable to find a satisfactory research interest in the early stages of my academic life. When I began to integrate my interest in disability with my economics, I initially concentrated on advocacy (using Economics) rather than scholarship and I was constrained by the need to meet submission deadlines to influence policy rather than to complete scholarly and acknowledgement requirements.
- As a result, many of the papers are incomplete, not fully edited, without acknowledgement and somewhat disjointed. They do however I believe provide a

perspective which is coherent and provide a vision for an Economics of Disability from the perspective of people with disability.

- I am currently in process of bringing all my thoughts and ideas together coherently. Part of this will be through a series of seminars/lectures to be undertaken with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.
- My agenda is to:
 - Bridge what I perceive to be a serious communication and paradigm chasm between policy-makers and advocates.
 - Develop an agenda for empirical research from the perspective of people with disability under constraints imposed by taxpayers

Acknowledgements

- My understanding of the needs of people with disability is as a result of talking to people with disability, the associates of people with disability and living with the needs of my daughter. I am particularly indebted to the intellect of John Moxon, the passion of Kim Rowles, the ‘detail’ expertise of Mark Relf, the wit and intelligence of my daughter Ya’el and the commitment of my wife, Belinda (who worked as a Social Worker in the area of Education and Intellectual Disability before we had a child with a Physical Disability).
- My intellectual acknowledgement is shaped by Gary Becker, Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen, Daniel Kahnemann, Joseph Schumpeter and Nathan Rosenberg. I have flirted with the neo-Marxism of Galbraith-Bowles-Gintis etc. as well as the Libertarianism of Friedman, Hayek etc. but have now settled on an eclectic anti-ideology perspective which sees theories as ‘insights’ rather than ‘simplifications of truth’. I believe giants from all political and ideological perspectives have insights without monopoly on truth, and they all make heroic assumptions. Furthermore, I believe that as Jeremiah argued with the Almighty that His Torah was for use on Earth rather than in Heaven, I believe that theory is for implementation among people rather than for argumentation by the angels of Academia and Government.
- My cynical understanding of the Nature of Man is partly informed by my parents who survived Auschwitz and Mathausen and the murder of most of their closest family members, and who resettled in democratic Australia starting with nothing in their pockets and only the skills of tailoring and smuggling in their heads.
- My cynical understanding of the Nature of Society and Institutions is informed by observing the behaviour of:
 - The United Nations and most states in their relationship to Israel
 - The wealthy nations (USA, EU, OECD) in their relationships to the ‘wretched of the Earth’
 - Most Governments in their relations with people with disability, and
 - Corrupt unaccountable political leaders in their relationship to their own citizens.
- My understanding of the enormous potential and possibilities before Humankind is informed by my understanding of the tremendous advances (with setbacks, and fits and starts) that have been made over the last three thousand years of *Homo sapiens*’ history, and particularly over the last two hundred and fifty years. I neither take this progress for granted, nor view everything which has survived the competitive struggle as necessarily good.